

1 Patent claims

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3 1. A drive device with a rotatable input shaft (1) and a
4 rotatable output shaft (2), which are connected to one
5 another by means of a magnetic coupling (5) having at
6 least two magnet pairs, wherein a first blocking device
7 (10) limits the ability of the output shaft (2) to rotate
8 in a first direction of rotation (11), and, after the
9 first blocking device (10) has become effective, owing to
10 magnetic forces emanating from the magnetic coupling (5)
11 a movement of the output shaft (2) takes place in a
12 second direction of rotation (13) opposite to the first.

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14 2. The drive device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in
15 that the input shaft (1) is moved and continues to be
16 moved when the output shaft (2) is blocked.

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18 3. The drive device as claimed in claim 1 or 2,
19 characterized in that the transition to the second
20 direction of rotation (13) of the output shaft (2) takes
21 place suddenly.

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23 4. The drive device as claimed in one of claims 1 to 3,
24 characterized in that a second blocking device (12)
25 causes a reversal of the movement of the output shaft (2)
26 from the second to the first direction of rotation (11).

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28 5. A method for operating a magnetic coupling (5), which
29 couples an input shaft (1) and an output shaft (2) to one
30 another, characterized in that

- 31 - the input shaft (1) is moved,
- 32 - the output shaft (2) is blocked in a first direction
33 of rotation (11),
- 34 - the input shaft (1) is moved further, and
- 35 - the output shaft (2) is moved suddenly in a second
36 direction of rotation (13), which is opposite to the
37 first direction of rotation (11).

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2 6. The use of a drive device according to the
3 characteristics of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that
4 the movement of the output shaft (2) serves to drive a
5 movable contact piece of an electrical switching device
6 (9).